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SUBJ: LE JOUR SUSPENDS PUBLICATION, APPARENTLY FOR GOOD

1. MONTREAL FRANCOPHONE DAILY LE JOUR SUSPENDED PUBLICATION ON AUGUST 24, 1976. THIS FOLLOWED THE REFUSAL OF LE JOUR JOURNALISTS TO ACCEPT A VOTE BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SODEP, INC., WHICH OWNS THE NEWSPAPER, LIMITING THE STAFF-CONTROLLED EDITORIAL BOARD'S CONTROL OVER EDITORIAL CONTENT. THIS IN TURN WAS FOLLOWED ON AUGUST 27 BY THE RESIGNATION OF LE JOUR'S PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR JACQUES PARIZEAU AND ITS PUBLISHER YVES MICHAUD FOLLOWING THE BOARD'S FAILURE TO AGREE ON FUTURE PUBLICATION PLANS. ALTHOUGH PARIZEAU AND MICHAUD SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS THEY REPORTEDLY AGREED TO REMAIN AT DISPOSAL OF BOARD IF THEIR SERVICES WERE REQUIRED. PARIZEAU PREDICTED AT THE TIME THAT LE JOUR WOULD NOT PUBLISH AGAIN AS A DAILY, BUT HE LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT PAPER COULD BECOME A WEEKLY. A MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF THE DAILY HAS BEEN CALLED FOR SEPTEMBER 22, BUT MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT LE JOUR HAS CEASED TO EXIST AS A DAILY, AT LEAST FOR FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE.

2. LE JOUR WAS FOUNDED IN FEBRUARY, 1974, BY PARIZEAU, MICHAUD AND RENE LEVESQUE, PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENTIST PARTI QUEBECOIS. IT WAS ESTABLISHED BASICALLY AS A NEWSPAPER TO EXPRESS THE SEPARATIST VIEWPOINT. THE MANAGEMENT FORMULA ADOPTED BY THE DAILY IN 1974 LAY SOMEWHERE BETWEEN EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TRADITIONAL ENTERPRISE. IT PUT EDITORIAL CONTENT UNDER THE

AUTHORITY OF A GROUP OF ITS JOURNALISTS, THUS GIVING REPORTERS AND STAFF THE SAY ON WHAT THE PAPER WOULD COVER. HOWEVER, FROM THE START, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS ABOUT THE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY. BOTH MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS APPARENTLY LACKED THE EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE NEEDED TO OVERCOME THE VARIOUS POWER CRISES WHICH AROSE PERIODICALLY. THIS DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT LE JOUR HAS EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FROM THE START. AS OF LATE JUNE, 1976, IT HAD A DEFICIT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION AND WAS LOSING OVER \$30,000 A DAY. HOWEVER, IT WAS NEVER VERY CLEAR WHETHER ITS MAIN PROBLEMS WERE FINANCIAL OR IDEOLOGICAL. THE PARTI QUEBECOIS DIVESTED ITSELF OF ITS STOCK HOLDINGS IN LE JOUR IN MID-1976 AND RENE LEVESQUE AND THE PRESENT PQ DIRECTORATE NOW VIEW LE JOUR AS TOO RADICAL TO REPRESENT THE PQ'S VIEWS. FOR MANY, HOWEVER, IT IS THE PQ THAT HAS BECOME MORE MODERATE IN ITS PROGRAM, WHEREAS LE JOUR HAS REMAINED PARTISAN AND MILITANT.

3. PARIZEAU, THE ECONOMIC GURU OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS, A MEMBER OF ITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND A RESPECTED UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL ECONOMICS PROFESSOR, HIGHLIGHTED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DAILY'S POSITION WHEN HE SAID THAT TAKEOVER OF THE PAPER BY RADICALS BETRAYED THE PURPOSES OF LE JOUR'S SUPPORTERS. FOR SOME RADICALS, PARIZEAU SAID, "THE SABOTAGE OF WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE GREAT EVENING OF THE 'REVOLUTION'. THIS IS A WELL-KNOWN DIALECTIC." PARIZEAU SAID LE JOUR HAD TO DIE BECAUSE ITS SUPPORTERS COULD NO LONGER ACCEPT THAT IT SHOULD SERVE TO "SHOCK, PROVOKE AND EVEN MISLEAD THOSE WHO HAD BEEN MOST FAITHFUL TO IT". LEVESQUE, PARIZEAU AND MICHAUD HAVE ACCUSED LE JOUR'S JOURNALISTS OF SABOTAGING THE NEWSPAPER. THE JOURNALISTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CLAIM THAT THE ACCUSATIONS OF SABOTAGE HAVE BEEN LEVELED TO CAMOUFLAGE THE DAILY'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH THEY SAY ARE AT THE ROOT OF LE JOUR'S PROBLEMS.

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